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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/549,529

09/16/2005

Satoshi Saito

MOR-258-A

9480

48980 7590 01/24/2008
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EXAMINER

GETTMAN, CHRISTINA DANIELLE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3734

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/24/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@youngbasile.com
audit@youngbasile.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/549,529

Applicant(s)

SAITO ET AL.

Examiner

Christina D. Gettman

Art Unit

3734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 5-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 26, 2007, has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

Newly submitted claims 8-11 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: independent claim 8 requires that there only be two sets of filaments with each end of each set forming a support wire. Independent claim 1, on the other hand, does not require only two sets of filaments. Therefore, a proper restriction requirement would have been implemented had the newly submitted claims been in the original claim set since the structure of each claimed device is different.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 8-11 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 3, change "it" to --the wire--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 5, change "if" to --of--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the tip" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the outer diameter" in line 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the outer circumference" in line 13-14. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the meshed material" in line 16. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the central part" in 16. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the convex side" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the central part" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the filter wire being formed into a mesh state. As is presently recited, it is unclear what is formed into a mesh state.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,934) in view of Greenhalgh (U.S. Patent No. 6,375,670). Gilson et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed including a principal wire (ref. 33, Fig. 11), a capture filter with a filter body (ref. 30 and 31, Fig. 11), support wires (ref. 30, Fig. 11, and Fig. 39) that extend radially outward towards the outer diameter, meshed material (ref. 31, Fig. 11), the filter body divided into sets that

are twined together to form the support wires (Fig. 39), the mesh size of the material decreasing toward the central part of the concave (Fig. 11; as is shown in the Figure, the mesh size decreases towards the central part of the concave), the filaments consisting of a shape-memory alloy (col. 11, line 39), a guide wire joined to the convex side of the filter body, and the nearer ends of the support wires being fixed to a second tubular piece (ref. 32, Fig. 11). Gilson et al. use one wire that goes through the filter. It is attached to both ends of the filter. The proximal end can be considered the principal wire while the distal end can be considered the guide wire. Gilson et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed except for the central part of the filter body being joined to the nearer end side of a first tubular piece and a concave filter. Greenhalgh teaches a concave (see distal end of ref. 10, Fig. 1, and how it is concave) filter body being joined to the nearer end side of a first tubular piece for the purpose of attachment (ref. 38, Fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Gilson et al. with a filter body being joined to the nearer end side of a first tubular piece for the purpose of attaching the guide wire to the mesh filter body.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, and 5-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christina D. Gettman whose telephone number is 571-

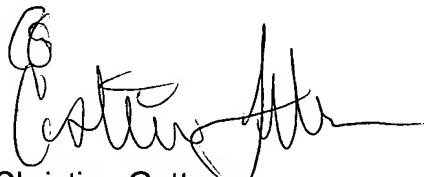
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272-3128. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:15 am to 3:45 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hayes can be reached on 571-272-4959. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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Art Unit 3734
571-272-3128



MICHAEL J. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER